



JOURNAL

Welcome to the Journal!

July 2022

A quick and informative snapshot of what's going on around the SC Department of Juvenile Justice!

We welcome all story ideas, photos, and any information you'd like to share with the agency.

Email: publicinformation@djj.sc.gov

Director's Cut

Eden Hendrick, SCDJJ Executive Director



Some days it feels like we are going a mile a minute. And at the same time, we feel like change isn't happening fast enough. How is that possible? In speaking to staff across the agency, part of this may be due to the volume of projects, areas and reforms we are currently undergoing. We have many irons in the fire yet sometimes not enough resources, or the right resources, or the time, prevents us from getting to all of it quickly. In reality, many things just take time, like big maintenance projects, policy changes and of course, culture change.

Going forward, I want to spend a moment in each newsletter to update you on some key projects we are working on that fall into this category. All projects are important, and some will take a good deal of time to complete. This is one of them.

At BRRC, we recognized last year that the open pod layout of our boys' youth living spaces is not conducive to a safe environment in a secure facility. As a result, DJJ made a request for funds to add locked doors to its pod rooms throughout campus. The use of our old lockup building, Laurel, will no longer be necessary for isolation when locked doors are added to pods. This doors project is slated to begin in the fall. We all know what the supply chain has done to getting supplies, but if all goes well, each building will be outfitted in 3 -4 months with a final completion date of November 2023. This more secure environment will support staff safety and allow us to function more efficiently as a secure facility.

Communication flow to all of you is something I will be working on. I believe that is important each month to let you know things we have going on that you may not otherwise know about and to share our vision moving forward. I hope you appreciate DJJ updates and there will be more next time!

Thanks for all you do and for your patience as we move forward to make this a more successful agency and a better place for our youth.



MISSION STATEMENT

To impact and transform young lives, strengthen families, and support safer communities through targeted prevention and rehabilitation.

VISION

Youth discover their strengths and abilities and become productive and successful citizens contributing to a safer South Carolina.

VALUES

Integrity – We are honest and transparent in our work and we are our accountable for what we do and say.

Loyalty – We are all DJJ: Loyalty is our commitment to the youth and the agency at which we work

Diversity – Each employee brings a viewpoint and can make a difference; working together, we can all make change.

Respect – There is always 'respect' built in every interaction with youth, their families, the public and between employees.

Compassion – Belief in our youth means showing them care and genuine concern every day.



SCDJJ Teacher, Support Staff of the Year



Dr. Cecilia Brown



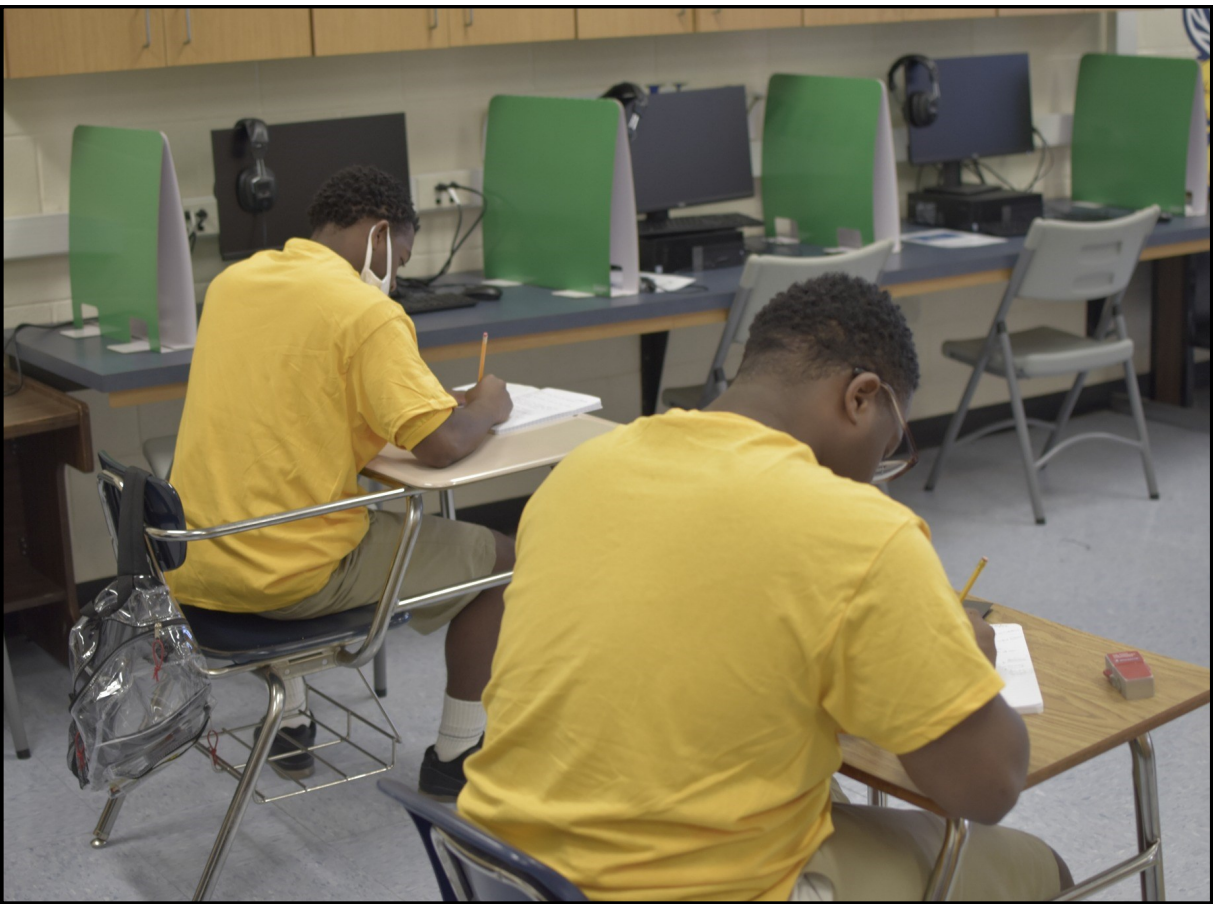
Ms. Patricia Fields

Congratulations to Dr. Cecilia Brown and Ms. Patricia Fields, as Dr. Brown has been selected as the SCDJJ Teacher of the Year and Ms. Fields has been chosen SCDJJ Education Support Staff of the Year.

We appreciate all they do. The contributions of both are worthy of this recognition and are great examples among their colleagues!

BRRC Youth taking accelerated college courses

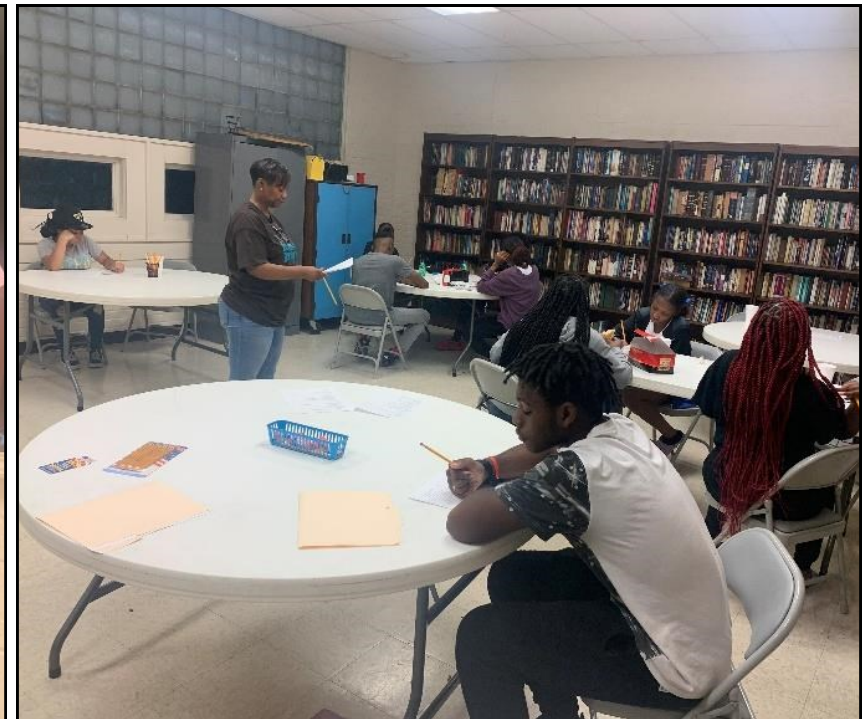
Some of our youth at SCDJJ are taking accelerated college classes this summer through Allen University at the Birchwood School College Lab, as this group is enrolled in SSH 104 African Civilization. The youth are able to interact with the instructor, ask questions, have discussion and take exams. Youth who successfully complete the course will earn 3 hours college credit which they can then transfer upon release. Good luck to these youth doing good things!



DJJ In the Community: Teen After School Centers (TASC)

The SCDJJ supports Teen After School Centers (TASC) across the state of South Carolina, and with Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding from the Office of Community Justice, the TASC sites operate what are named Student Advocacy Centers (SAC).

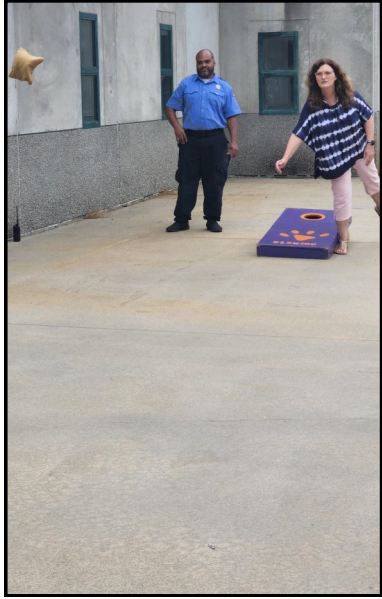
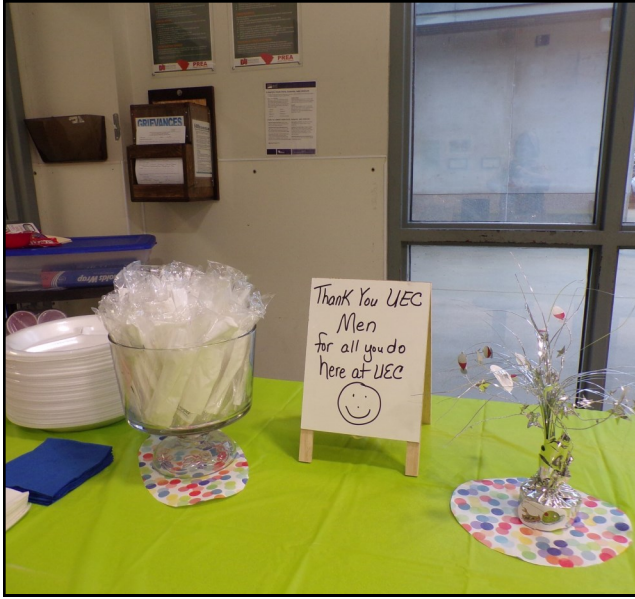
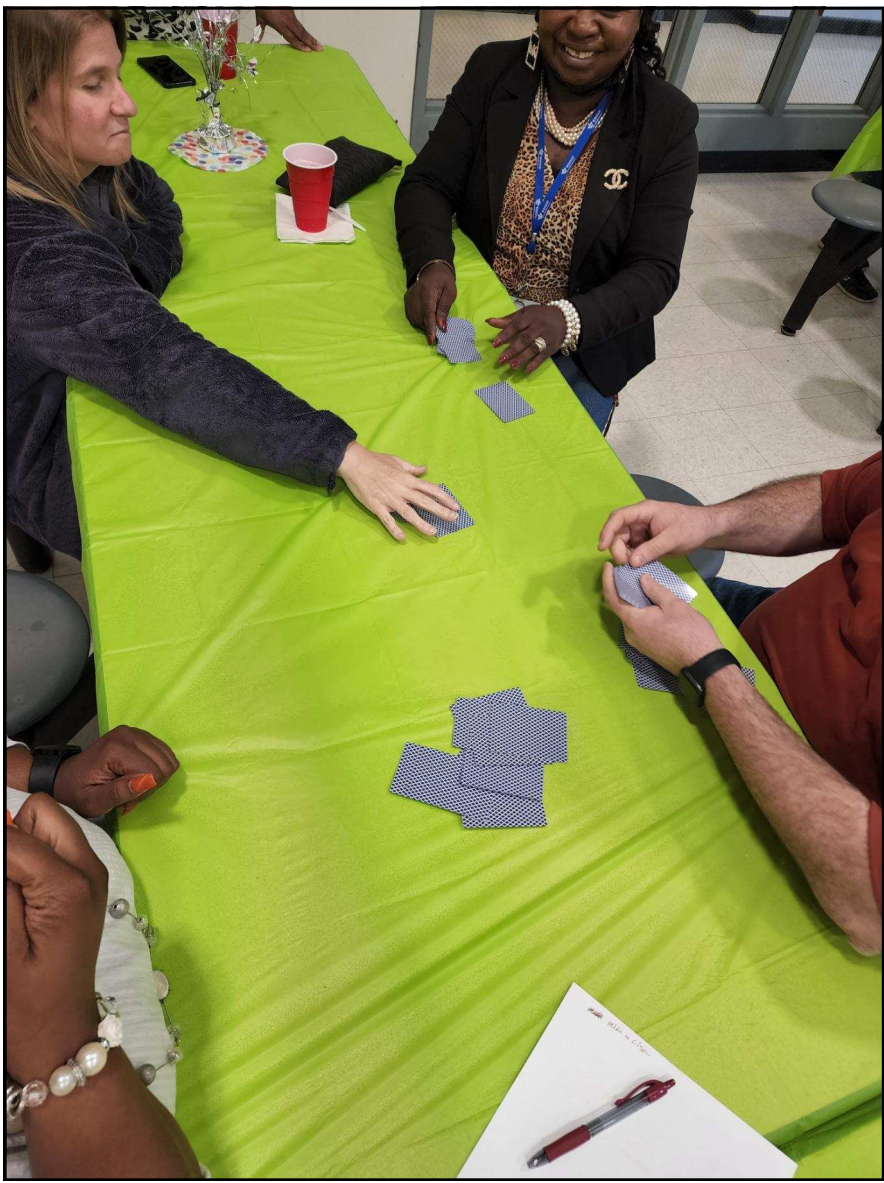
See images of recent visits to several SAC sites in the state, which help youth with job training programs, parenting classes, GEDs, post-secondary education and much more.



UEC Men's Luncheon

On Friday, June 24, the UEC held its Men's Luncheon, with door prizes awarded, along with a Coloring Sheet Contest for the month and a Corn Hole and Spades Tournament.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal of fish, hush puppies, slaw, baked beans, dessert and drink. All who took part had a wonderful time of fun and fellowship!



Hampton County DJJ Hosts Fishing Camp

The Hampton County DJJ office facilitated a fishing clinic for youth at the Youth Generation Matters TASC summer camp on July 7, 2022. The youth fished at Lake Warren State Park in Hampton County.



DJJ Summit

The 2022 DJJ Summit took place Friday, June 17, at the Cooperative Conference Center in Columbia. The summit was a collaboration between SCDJJ and the U of SC's Children's Law Center and it brought together DJJ employees from across the state for a day of connecting and learning.

Dr. Zenobia Edwards, Director of the Darlington County Intervention School, gave the keynote presentation "Unite 2 Ignite" and Jessie Barnes from the S.C. Department of Mental Health Office of Suicide Prevention spoke on the state's efforts to prevent youth suicide.

Wrapping up the day was a panel discussion with personal stories of success from three former DJJ youth at BRRC - Isiah, Chris and Gordon. All three are now thriving citizens, with their own businesses and families. In all, it was an informative and encouraging day.



CEC Ice Cream Social

Recently, the DJJ staff at CEC held an Ice Cream Morale day. A good time was had by all who participated!





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LET'S STAY CONNECTED